

REMARKS

New claims 15-17 are added so as more fully to claim various patentable aspects of Applicant's claimed invention. Claims 15-17 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for reasons similar to why claims 1-14 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Non-elected claims 3 and 4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1, 2, and 5-17 are the claims now pending in the Application.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify the structures recited therein. This amendment is not a narrowing amendment that would give rise to estoppel.

Formal Matters

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the priority document filed March 4, 2002.

Further, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner approve the Drawings filed March 4, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Yoshida, Kroeger or Dvorsky. This rejection is traversed.

Among the problems recognized and solved by Applicant's claimed invention is the need to determine the direction and the amount of movement of an object, such as a pointer.¹

According to an aspect of Applicant's claimed invention, the direction and amount of movement of a pointer or a finger dragged at a surface associated with the plurality of strips is determined based on signals received from the first and second plurality of strips. The prior art, including Yoshida, Dvorsky and Kroeger, do not identify these problems, let alone disclose the solutions provided by Applicant's claimed invention.

Claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, detecting a component of a moving direction of the pointer by the order in which the touch signals are generated.

Yoshida discloses a laminated piezoelectric matrix switch that detects pressure at various points of the matrix. Yoshida discloses the identification of the operation of key switches or push buttons located at various points of the matrix. The Examiner cites Yoshida's Figs. 5 and 6 and alleges that these figures disclose Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1 and 2. These figures show a plurality of piezoelectric film pieces arranged to accomplish Yoshida's above-described functions.

¹ Applicant does not represent that every embodiment of Applicant's claimed invention necessarily solves these problems or provides the particular solutions herein discussed. This discussion merely illustrates some aspects of Applicant's claimed invention.

Yoshida does not disclose or suggest detecting a component of a moving direction of a pointer. Further, Yoshida does not disclose or suggest such a determination based on the order in which the touch signals are generated.

Dvorsky discloses an active multi-layer piezoelectric tactile sensor apparatus and method. Dvorsky discloses a tactile sensor that detects the shape and weight of an object and an embodiment that uses two sensing layers to allow gradations in sensing capability, with one layer sensing smaller forces (Dvorsky, col. 6, lines 43-53; Fig. 1).

Kroeger discloses an output circuit for a piezoelectric polymer pressure sensor. Kroeger discloses a pressure sensitive matrix keyboard having a plurality of switch positions arranged in rows and columns and a circuit for sensing the operation of keys of a keyboard via the pressure sensitive matrix.

The prior art, including Dvorsky and Kroeger, does not disclose or suggest detecting a component of a moving direction of a pointer, and does not disclose or suggest such detecting based on the order in which the touch signals are generated, as *inter alia* required by independent claim 1.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and therefore incorporates novel and nonobvious features thereof. Accordingly, claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/086,429

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which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

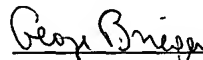
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